

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." VING.

VOL. III.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1821.

NUM. 17.

AGRICULTURE.

Remarks on Soiling,

[From the Massachusetts Agricultural Repository.]

Continued from page 185, volume 2, of the American Farmer.

CONFORMABLY to my promise, I proceed to state the manner in which the soiling process ought to be conducted, by any one, who may originally attempt it; how far it is applicable to the farming condition of New-England; and what species of farmers will find their account in attempting it.

As to the manner in which the soiling process ought to be conducted, besides that general care and personal superintendence, (at least occasionally and by way of oversight) which is essential to success in this, as in every other business in life, three general objects ought to claim the attention of every farmer, or other person, who undertakes this process.

1. Provision against seasons of extraordinary drowth, or deficiency of general crop, from any other natural accident.

2. Succession of succulent food, during the whole soiling season; and facility of its attainment.

3. Preparation relative to care of the stock, and increase of manure; the particular objects of the soiling process.

As to provision against seasons of extraordinary drowth, or deficiency of general crop from any other natural accident, I make this suggestion from respect to an obvious dictate of prudence, rather than because such has been my own practice. In fact, I have never made any such provision. Years of uncommon drowth, or sterility from other causes, are so uncommon in our country, that I have, hitherto, neglected, and without injury, this plain suggestion of prudence. As a general rule, however, a farmer, commencing and adopting this plan, would act wisely, to keep on hand, a month, or six weeks stock of hay or other food; so as to have assurance that his cattle should not suffer from any untoward accident of season. A mixture of dry food, with the succulent, is often very conducive to the health of the animals soiled, and enables the feeder to check the too great looseness of the bowels; often the effect of high feeding upon succulent vegetables.

Some provision of dry food, against such exigency, and for such purposes, is wise, as a dictate of foresight. It is also as a dictate of economy, as some mixture of dry food with succulent, makes the latter go much farther; and, on very stormy days, enables the feeder to preserve the general and desired state of the cattle, soiled, with less personal exposure.

As to the second general object of attention, succession of succulent food, during the whole of the soiling season; and facility of its attainment. This includes

1. Nature of the crop used for soiling.

2. Time and mode of sowing and cultivation.

3. Mode of taking and applying the crop, and the relative location of the ground, used for soiling, to the place where the cattle is soiled.

1. As to the nature of the crop used for soiling. This must, of course, be different, in different climates. The English speak of lucerne, clover, peas, cabbages, as used for this purpose. Of all these, clover is that, which is the most capable, in this country, of being made useful in this system. Unquestionably, however, any succulent vegetable, which cattle consume, may be used, according to the discretion, which acquaintance with its nature dictates. Without dilating generally on the applicability of all of these vegetables, and leaving every farmer to take

advantage of these and every other, he may deem useful, and find convenient, I shall state my own practice and experience.

These have led me to simplify and reduce the number of vegetables used, for the purpose of making the cultivation and effect of each species selected, a distinct subject of consideration; and for the enabling me to have the great supports of the system well established. This effected, it is easy to change, and to deviate, into other vegetables, or to introduce them in aid of those, on which any one chooses, principally, to rely. In making my selection, I was guided by the nature of the climate, and by the consideration of the vegetables selected being the best known, and most successfully cultivated in the neighbourhood. I use but four,—1st, grass; 2d, oats; 3d, Indian corn; 4th, cabbages.

1. Grass. I depend upon this for the first month, of the soiling season; beginning, in our climate, about the 20th of May, or 1st of June, and terminating about the 1st of July.

In my own practice, I have contented myself with commencing soiling at the time, at which cattle are in this climate usually turned out to grass. It would be wise, and, I apprehend, easily practicable, to introduce some vegetable, which, sown the preceding year, would enable the farmer to commence cutting earlier, and so carry back the commencement of the soiling season to the first of May, possibly earlier. This, however, I have never attempted, partly because it requires personal attentions, which, I could not give, consistent with my other avocations; and partly because, in the commencement of the system, I thought it wise to limit my experiments to the period, in which cattle are usually kept upon pasture; leaving it to future experience to enlarge the benefits and length of the soiling season. Fearing lest by attempting too much, I might be discouraged, and by failure, in part, might put to hazard the great object of the system, which are attained, when vegetables taken for soiling are made a complete substitute for vegetables fed by the cattle themselves from the pasture. For the first month, therefore, of the soiling season, I depend upon grass.

Concerning the quantity of land, in grass, necessary to be applied to the support of any specific number of cattle, I have no experience sufficient to state it with accuracy. My own practice has been to cut from the earliest grass I could find, in small pieces and patches about my house, and by sides of an inclosed road, of which I could not easily take an exact measurement. Minute calculations on this point must obviously be very uncertain and unsatisfactory, as the capacity of every given piece of land, to support any specified number of cattle must depend upon its heart and state of cultivation. It will be sufficient to say that my own experience authorizes me to state, that one acre of good clover, or any early grass, cut for soiling, is ample for the support of six head of full grown cattle, from the 20th of May to the 20th of June. As it is best, however, in all calculations of this kind to provide against all contingencies, my rule is to consider one quarter of an acre of my best grass producing land as appropriated to each head of soiling cattle, for its support between the 20th of May and 1st of July. Less than that quantity has always been sufficient on my farm. If it be not used for soiling, the produce is housed as hay, for the winter.

Small farmers, who should top dress the land every day cut over, with the water leached from the manure heap, would reduce the extent of land required for the process of soiling very considerably.

It is needless to give any directions relating to any particular preparation for the soiling process, for this first period. What is required is only land in its best grass state,—good mowing land,—to be reserved at the rate of a quarter of an acre, for each head of cattle soiled, and for the facility of feeding and of manuring for after feed as near the barn, where the cattle are kept, as possible.

The preparation of oats, Indian corn, and cabbages, require somewhat more particular attention.

Preparation of soiling food in April, for July. 1st. of Oats. These are, on my farm, made to succeed grass, and usually afford a good cut about the first of July. As it is important in every plan of husbandry, to simplify as much as possible, I shall consider oats, as the food exclusively destined for the month of July, although, in fact, at the latter part of the month, Indian corn stalks may begin to be cut; and had often better be commenced, not only for the sake of diversifying the feed of the stock, but, because, the corn stalks cut in the latter part of this month will be more likely to vegetate anew with luxuriance, than if cut later.

With this explanation, I state oats, cut in the milk, to be the food, in this climate, for the support of the soiling process, in July. As it is important to get the cattle off of the grass land as soon as possible, to the end that the winter crop of hay may be the more abundant, so the preparation for oats ought to be as early as possible. It will be best, if the land have been thoroughly ploughed the autumn preceding. It ought to be land in excellent heart, all my calculations being made on land in such a state. It being obvious that calculations on any other must be altogether uncertain and various in result. It ought also to be land, which had been cultivated and well manured the year preceding. As soon as the frost is out of the ground it should be ploughed at least once, and the oats sowed broad cast, at the rate of four bushels to the acre, at least. The land should then be harrowed and rolled. Oats thus sowed, at the earliest moment possible, will generally be ready for the scythe by the first of July.

As to the quantity of land thus to be prepared, one acre, for every four head of cattle soiled; that is, one quarter of an acre for each head, will be sufficient. At least such has been invariably my experience, where the land is in proper heart and tilth. In order to test this point, I have not only observed and compared the general extent of land cut over, with the whole number of cattle soiled, but also have more than once had the quantity eaten by a certain number of head, in a certain number of days, on a measured extent, compared. The result of my experiment is, that one square rod of oats, in full milk, growing on land, in proper (that is, high) tilth will support one head of cattle a day. One quarter of an acre, or forty square rods, for thirty days, is a fair basis of calculation, and making a sufficiently liberal allowance for accident.

In the outset of attempting this system, I should recommend somewhat enlarging this quantity, that is, sowing somewhat more than a quarter of an acre, for every head of cattle soiled.

1st. Because in farming as little should be left to chance as possible.

2d. Because nothing is lost; if there be an excess, it may be cut and dried for winter food.

3d. Because the necessity for beginning to cut a little before the oats are in full milk, and sometimes of extending the cut a little after that period, will affect the general result of all calculations relative to the productive power of the land.

In reference to the fact, and upon the supposition on which we are now proceeding, that oats alone,

without aid from any other product, are relied upon for the whole month of July, the sowing ought to be successive, viz. one half the destined quantity of land, as early as the seed can be got into the land; the other half, a fortnight later, so that the crop may have some succession. It would be probably better if the whole extent destined were divided into fourths, and sowed each fourth with a week or ten days intervening. Thus supposing the number of cattle soiled to be four; requiring one acre, according to my practice; and one quarter should be sowed on the 1st of April, one quarter on the 8th, one on the 15th and 22d. My own practice has not been thus subdivided. I have found one sowing about the 10th, and one about the 15th to answer.

2d. Indian Corn. This, according to that simple plan, of conducting the soiling process, I am describing, is to be relied upon for food during the month of August.

The estimate made concerning the capacity of land in oats, to support stock, may for all practical purposes be assumed to be the same, when in Indian corn; that is, a quarter of an acre to support one head for the month. Somewhat more than that quantity to be sown per head, for the same reasons as those stated in relation to oats; the land to be in the same heart and tilth; to receive, at least, one ploughing, and harrowing, about the latter end of April and in the beginning of May; after which light furrows should be run three feet asunder, at the depth of three or four inches. In these furrows corn should be sown broad cast, about the thickness, and in the same manner, as peas are sown, in field culture of them. The corn may then be covered by the plough. Although, in my experience, a harrow drawn lengthways, and then crossways, followed by a roller, is sufficient, and to be preferred for this operation.

If the farmer choose, and his fund of manure permit, the furrows, previous to planting, may be lightly strewn with manure, to obvious advantage. This, however, has not been my practice. Grain of any kind, not permitted to seed but little, exhausts the land; but if it be repeated it will require, of course, some provision of manure to prevent its deterioration. He, however, who carries on a soiling system, upon any important scale, will never want for manure.

Corn thus sown will be ready to cut the latter end of July and the beginning of August. The whole month of August, I have found Indian corn, cut in the stalk, the best soiling food. If, however, the farmer prefer to give a variety he may sow a part of the land in oats, instead of corn, and alternate through the month of August on oats and Indian corn.

In the middle of May, in the beginning and middle of June, and even as late as the 1st of August, in our climate, a portion of land proportionate to the number of cattle, should be sowed in like manner; on which soiling may be continued during the whole month of September. In this month, however, reliance may be placed upon the grass of the second crop, from those acres from which soiling was effected in the month of June. The grass of the second crop will generally enable the farmer to soil to the 15th of October, if his grass land be in proper tilth and heart.

After the 15th of October to the beginning, or the middle of November, the tops of his winter vegetables, such as carrots, or turnips, and which, in every good system of farming, should be raised in proportion to the stock kept, should be relied upon.

After which cabbages should succeed until the time when all cattle are housed in this climate.

Reduced to a single statement, my experience and system, is, for the support of my soiled stock during the months of July, August and September, to sow, in the months of April, May, June and July, equal to three quarters of an acre of land for each head of cattle soiled, in such succession as will give also a regular succession of succulent food, in the three first mentioned months.

For their support from the 20th May, and during the month of June, I reserve early clover or other grass, at the rate of one quarter of an acre for each head of cattle soiled.

For their support during the first half of October I depend upon the second growth of the half acre, cut over in May and June, and the second growth of the oats and corn cut over in July.

This period, between the 20th May and the 15th October, is the only one on which I rely on grass, oats, and Indian corn; and includes a reservation and employment of land, equal to one acre per head of cattle soiled.

My own experience has been always less than this. Never having exceeded, as I believe, seventeen acres for twenty head; and those, never in that state of high tilth, which in this systematic statement I recommend.

In truth, the capacity of an acre to maintain cattle, in a soiling process, if conducted with due attention to develop its full powers, is probably four, or five times greater than this, but I choose to raise no extravagant expectations. In the commencement of every new system, mistakes will be made. Great diversities in quality or state of land must exist, and will, of course, occasion a diversity in result. Besides, the soiling process, beyond all others, requires vigilance, and foresight. Cattle, in this process, are not left to range over an immeasurable extent of pasture, composed of grass, heath rock, marsh, brush and briar, about which the owner makes no calculation; sometimes stocking it beyond, and sometimes beneath its power; in good seasons keeping them well, in bad affording lean and scanty fare, scarcely sufficient to support life, and wholly inadequate to a profitable return. In the soiling process they are put under the care of intelligence. It must exist and must be exercised. If this be the case, the reward from the system, on farms suited for it, is ample.—For myself, after a trial of six years, no consideration would induce me to change it for the old method of pasturing.

It remains to explain the soiling system during the residue of the season, viz. from the 15th of October to the middle or the latter end of November; at which time stock, in this climate, usually begin upon their winter food. In my system, I have depended upon the tops of carrots and turnips, destined either for the market, or for the winter food of stock. My practice has been to raise from eight to twelve acres of vegetables. The tops of which, with a single foddering of salt hay, per day, have been, according to my experience, sufficient to support, equal to twenty head of cattle from the 15th of October to the middle or latter end of November.

If, however, the farmer is not in the practice of raising a sufficient quantity of roots, to yield a support for his stock, for six weeks, cabbages are, in this climate, the farmer's best dependence; after the second cutting of the grass, and corn, and oat fodder, fail.

The preparation for cabbages, in field culture, is so well and universally known it needs no explanation. It is sufficient to say that, in suitable soil, well manured, a thousand plants, weighing, upon an average, fifteen pounds, may easily be raised on the eighth of an acre. These, at 200 lb. per day, per head, or 134 cabbages, will be sufficient for each head of cattle seventy days, which is ample for the support of each head, to the first of December.

With respect to care of the stock, and increase of manure; the particular objects of the soiling process. All the care of the stock, requisite, is keeping them clean, and carrying them, every day; throwing the manure into the proper receptacle; seeing that the cattle are regularly and sufficiently watered; and that they be permitted to be at large in a yard, of a common barn yard size, at least two hours, in the morning, and two in the afternoon. The yard will be best if a part of it be shaded, or sheltered from the direct rays of the sun.

The food is distributed in racks, under cover, or in the barn, about six times a day, in due proportions, which the usual practical knowledge of a farmer will easily regulate.

A cellar under the barn, or at least a covered receptacle for the manure, clayed at the bottom, or stoned, so as to be water-tight, to the end that the drainings of the manure should not escape in the

subsoil. The yard and floor of the barn should, also, be so constructed, as to direct the urine into such a covered, water-tight receptacle.

This is particularly necessary in the soiling process, inasmuch as the manure made by succulent food is rich, and watery, and liable to be in a degree wasted by the action of the sun's rays, in an open yard. But when under cover, it is the richest of all manures of like species, and is qualified beyond all others, to impart its riches to soil, and earth thrown into the receptacle, and mixed with this summer's manure.

Hogs, also, should be permitted to range into it from the hogpen, not only for the purpose of mixing the deposit together, but also on account of economy; in all soiling, some waste of green food is unavoidable, either from sometimes cutting more than can be consumed in the day, or from its being blown upon by the cattle. This hogs consume and prevent loss of it.

The increase of manure in this mode exceeds all anticipation. It is on this account that the soiling process claims the attention of farmers, who are always ready to say, "We can do well enough, only give us manure. The want of manure is our great want." This is supplied by the soiling process, in a mode cheap, easy, within the resources of every farmer, and leading, in its event, to the highest and most satisfactory of all methods of conducting a farm.

I have been the more minute, in this statement, and shall not fail, hereafter, to communicate my experience, in this system, because I apprehend it is peculiarly suited to the farming condition of Massachusetts; and although it is, at present, almost unknown, and wholly unpractised—at least, I have never heard that it is as yet practised, upon any considerable scale, on any farm (except my own) yet I am satisfied that it will gradually grow into use; and the sooner it can be made to be understood, and the way shown, the better for our commonwealth. A farmer, now-a-days, who has but thirty or forty acres of land, feels himself, in some measure, straitened for want of room. He is tempted to buy pasture ground; to widen his surface; perhaps to run in debt; and embarrass himself for life, for the sake, of what he thinks, the "one thing needful" for a farmer—much land. When his sons come of age, if he cannot give them more than thirty or forty acres, they must abandon their homes, the land of their fathers, and all the privileges of a cultivated and improved society, to seek a great farm in western wildernesses.

Now all this is mistake and want of knowledge of the productive power of the soil, when highly cultivated. The first step for farmers to take is to reverse their old prejudices in this respect, and instead of calculating how much more land they want, let them try with how little they can do; and do well.

There is no proposition in nature more true, than that any farmer may maintain upon thirty acres of good arable land, twenty head of cattle, in better condition, with more profit, with more comfort to the animals, with less labour, less trouble, and less cash advance, to himself, than he at present usually expends upon an hundred acres. In addition to which he will have the great satisfaction of seeing, in time, every square inch of his land productive, instead of seeing, as he does now, not more than one part in four of his farm producing any thing; or at least any thing that will pay the expense of harvesting.

But how is this practice to be introduced? I answer—Gradually. Let farmers "feel their way" into it. If any farmer thinks that he wants more pasture land, in order to keep more cattle in the summer, in order to consume his hay, or to make manure, in winter, instead of running in debt, or laying out his money in more land, let him keep himself free of debt, or put his money out at interest; and try soiling. Let him be assured he will find his account in it. But how shall he try? Shall he shut up all his cattle at once; enter upon a scheme recommended by book writers; and perhaps fail, either from accident, or misapprehension, the first year. By no means. Every practical farmer, if he be wise, will, on the one hand, never utterly slight the suggestions

of books, and writers on the subject of his art; and, on the other, will never enter upon them, at once, on any great and decisive scale. As the saying is, "he will always feel his way." Thus, for instance, in this case of soiling. A farmer, ignorant of the subject, yet willing to try the experiment, should commence with one or two head of cattle. Let him set aside, at first, two acres of land for each head. Nothing will be lost if there be an access of the oats, or corn, sown for soiling, beyond the consumption, the surplus cut in season, will remain for winter's food. Let him go through, for one year, a course of soiling, such as is suggested, for one or two head of cattle. Let him oversee the feeding himself; or by a confidential hand. A boy, if trust-worthy, is sufficient for such an experiment, acting under the daily directions of his father, or master. Let him provide a pit, or cellar, covered, or under the barn, or so placed in relation to the cattle soiled, as that the manure and urine can be easily preserved; the cellar, or receptacle, being water tight; if this be so situated as that his hogs can have fair play among the deposits, it is impossible but that he will find his account in it.

One year's success will enable him, and, I cannot question, will induce him, to double, if not treble, his next year's experiment. Soon he will, if the nature of his farm permit, shut up his whole stock; and ultimately will arrive at a state of conviction and feeling, such, as will never permit him again, on any consideration, to allow cattle to run at large, on any of his land, which is capable of being ploughed and mown.

I know it will be asked what shall be done with rocky land, and land suitable only for pastures? My answer is, that where a man has *nothing else*, but rock or pasture land, or sand, which cannot be made subject to cultivation, a man must manage according to his condition. Good farming is making the most of land, according to its species. If a man has a sand bank, on the margin of the ocean, he will best make salt. If he have nothing but some perpendicular mountain rocks, he will best, probably, keep goats. So of the rest. Farming, to be good, must always have reference to the species and capacity of the soil.

The system I advocate has reference to *arable land*; to that portion of it on every man's farm, which is capable of being ploughed, and mowed over. Every man who wishes to make the most of this part of his farm, will effect this the most certainly, the most economically, and the most satisfactorily, by the mode I recommend. If a man have part pasture and part arable, he may soil for part, and pasture for part. There is nothing inconsistent in this; on the contrary, the soiling is a great support to the pasture; because when the pasture fails, as in dry seasons it often will, a man, who soils part, will always provide a surplus of his soiling food, to meet such a contingency.

In answer to the question, what species of farmers will find their account in attempting to soil? I answer. EVERY FARMER, WHO WANTS MANURE; AT A CHEAP AND EASY RATE. The greatest profit of soiling arises from the quantity of manure it enables the farmer to make; more than doubling it upon the same stock. It may be adopted, I apprehend, as an axiom, almost universal; certainly so, except in cases of very great proximity to a town or village, that soiling is the cheapest of all modes of obtaining manures. In this point of view, the saving of fence, the economy of land, of food; the increase of milk, and the better condition of the cattle; all of which have been shown to be the consequence of this method, may be considered as incidental to the system, as an offset for the labour requisite; giving the manure made as a clear gain; and what is more, without the loss and trouble, and expense, of carting from a distance. It is not only made, but it is placed, just where it should be, in the farmer's own stercorary—or, covered manure heap.

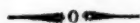
The rich farmer, and the extensive land holder, ought to avail himself of it; if he wants manure. Such farmer, if he have capital, may stock his pasture land up to its full pasture power, and keep a number of head additional on the soiling system, according to the quantity of manure, of which he stands in need. But the conduct of a farm, upon a great

scale of this nature, depends upon so many circumstances, that the particular mode or extent of applying this system, as subsidiary to pasturing, cannot be prescribed by any general rule. Calculations must have reference to a knowledge of all the particular circumstances and relations of such a farm, and such a capitalist farmer.

It is to small farmers, those who possess twenty, thirty, or forty acres of land, to whom this system is peculiarly applicable. Upon this they may build up a most prosperous agriculture, with little capital, little more than ordinary trouble, and little or no risk; relieved from debt, which is so frequently the farmer's ruin, under the idea of the necessity of purchasing more land, and relieved, also, from the pain and vexation of owning and superintending a vast surface; every where less productive than it ought to be, and in a very great proportion, often not productive at all.

I have, thus, endeavoured to give, according to the request of the Trustees, an account of the mode of my conducting the soiling process, and the result of my own experience. It is now six years since I commenced it, and no consideration would induce me to abandon it. Every year brings new conviction of its facility and its productiveness.

If small farmers, would be persuaded to commence the system upon a small scale, with one or two head of cattle, they would gradually become acquainted with it. Success would inspire confidence. Until enlarging the number of cattle soiled, they might, in time, easily keep one head per year for every acre of land they possess. Far greater than this, would be the fair, ultimate, result of the system, if wisely conducted. Besides which, they would find other economies and advantages resulting from it, amply compensating for all the increased labour consequent upon the process.



COMMUNICATED FOR REPUBLICATION IN THE AMERICAN FARMER.

A Letter on the Necessity of Defending the Rights and Interests of Agriculture, addressed to the Delegation of the United Agricultural Societies of Virginia.—BY JOHN TAYLOR OF CAROLINE.

Caroline, (Port Royal) January 22, 1821.

SIR,—By the last post I received the printed proceedings of the United Agricultural Societies of Virginia, of the 6th and 7th December,* and not knowing to whom I am indebted for the civility, my acknowledgement is transmitted to you as the president of the meeting, although I have not the pleasure of your acquaintance.

An opinion, that nothing has been suggested, so likely to advance the prosperity of the United States, as a union and concert of Agricultural Societies, proposed by the constitution of that in which you preside, induces me to subjoin some reasons suggested by those urged in your proceedings, which have contributed towards its adoption.

Such a union and concert seem to me to bear no analogy to leagues or combinations suggested by fraud. On the contrary, it is conformable to the principle which caused men to unite in civil societies for the defence of life, liberty and property, against violence and imposition—and strictly analogous to the confederation of the United States. This was not entered into for the purpose of invading the rights of other nations—but, to prevent other nations

*The papers referred to, are the last address and petition from the Delegation, and the constitution of the United Agricultural Societies of Virginia, for which, see No. 42, vol. 2, of the American Farmer.

from invading our own. The several internal combinations, suggested and directed by exclusive interests, which have appeared in the United States, are, on the other hand, analogous to the strong or cunning man in a state of nature, exercising fraud or force over the weak and ignorant; and they have placed the agricultural interest in the same relation to themselves, as this country, without union, would have occupied with respect to countries organized to act with effect. The agricultural interest cannot therefore be more safe against the aggressions of inimical fraternities, unless its members shall act in concert, than the U. States would have been against the aggressions of inimical nations, without a union.

There is even a distinction between the union of the states and a union of agriculturists, in favour of the latter. The union of the states is able to invade the rights of other nations; but the union of agriculturists cannot permanently invade the just rights of other interests. It cannot fleece them; because as the agricultural interest embraces, and must forever embrace a vast majority of the people, the spoil to be acquired from a very inferior minority would be inconsiderable, and its division impracticable. As the chief consumer of imported articles, and the ultimate employer of merchants, manufacturers, and sailors, it cannot injure either of these classes without inflicting a wound upon itself, which could only be healed by removing the injury.

The agricultural interest is, therefore, in this country, a patriot from necessity, and an umpire of the public good of superior integrity to any other interest. If we compare it with the banking, the capitalist, or the patronage interest, we shall pronounce that its integrity in deciding questions of national concern, was exclusive. But when compared with the mercantile interest, though a superiority will still appear, yet we shall discern in the latter a degree of integrity approaching near to that from which it is reflected. The alliance between the two is so indissoluble that their differences, were they the only negotiators, would always end in equitable compromises.

I think that the time has arrived for resorting to this uncorrupted umpire, not merely for the sake of the agricultural interest, but of justice to labour, industry, and talents exerted in all employments; and particularly to manufacturers themselves, who will suffer more than any other class of society, by raising up a class of capitalists or masters over them, at the national expense.

One crisis is a bad thing. It is that nice point of time at which a single prescription may kill or cure. If a single crisis is a cross or pile chance, for life or death how tremendous must a case be, by which liberty is exposed to three! Such, in my view, is the situation of the United States, at this period—the three perils by which we are beset, may be called the fanatical crisis, the avaricious crisis, and the geographical crisis.

The fanatical crisis exhibits the curious phenomenon of an enthusiasm against negro slavery, and in favour of the slavery inflicted by monopoly. This inconsistency arises from neglecting to compare the evils of each. From the mass of facts for this comparison, a selec-

tion of a few will suffice to show which inflicts the most misery. Negro slavery in the United States, instead of killing, multiplies people.—The slaves increase like the free. Their condition is softened by the sympathies and interest of the owners, by supplies of food and raiment without care, by connubial freedom, and by a multitude of indulgencies sufficient to produce a stream of cheerfulness and mirth, indicating no small share of personal happiness.—The tyranny of monopolies possess no sympathy; it supplies no food and raiment; it creates a constant famine as to both, by its constant thefts from industry; it produces little cheerfulness or mirth; it diffuses poverty over a vast number of people; it peoples poorhouses and standing armies; and as its mischiefs for ever outrun its remedies, it annually consigns multitudes to the grave, before these remedies can arrive; for they come behind, after the mischiefs have gone far ahead. Thus the system of monopolies in England fails in its attempts to soften its own tyranny. The pauperism it creates leaves its affected humanity far behind, and thousands annually perish for want of bread. Cadaverous, melancholy, and desperate, its victims are compelled to commit atrocious crimes, because subsistence is not secured to them, and the connubial comforts themselves (the strongest natural propensity) are converted into the strongest incitement to vice, by an incapacity to support a family. In the East Indies, the single monopoly of rice, murdered, in one year, five millions of people. In Turkey, the slavery of monopoly, depopulates the fairest portion of the earth, and personal slavery is the remedy for its ravages. However the account may stand between the common evils inflicted on mankind by these two sorts of slavery; if we should even doubt whether individuals suffer most under the slavery of monopoly spread over Europe, or under negro slavery in the United States, in periods of peace, yet by computing the wars begotten by the avarice of privileged orders, the doubt must vanish; and who is so blind as not to perceive the germe of this terrible evil sprouting in the U. States?

But a comparison between the slavery of monopoly and negro slavery, to display the inconsistency between declamations in favor of one, and against the other, is superfluous. In the United States these declamations flow from kindred sources, and converge to the same point. Personal ambition is the prompter, in one case, and personal avarice in the other.—They both infringe the rights of the states, and the rights of industry and property; and they must therefore meet, if successful, in an arbitrary form of government. Both have used fanaticism as an instrument. Avarice first set up the idol called banking, and assured us that it was made of gold. The nation fell down and worshipped, and consigned to it a despotic power of legislation over currency, and, of course, over almost every private interest. Shall we break this idol in pieces, or continue our adorations? This idol having failed to make the nation rich and happy, the new idol, called protecting duties, is now set up for a deity by the same kind of priesthood; and an increase of taxation for the benefit of exclusive privi-

leges and the purposes of patronage, ought now, it is said, to be the objects of national veneration.

The geographical crisis invented conjointly by ambition and avarice, is still more alarming. There was no great ingenuity in deceiving a fanatical love of money to become an admirer of banking; but, to convert a hatred of slavery into a veneration for exclusive privileges, taxation, and inflamed geographical parties, is an evidence both of great skill and great folly.—Fanaticism, is, indeed, an engraver, universally employed by ambition and avarice, because there is nothing too absurd for it to imprint on the human mind.

Ambition, avarice, and this engraver, combined against our republican system, are fearful odds. The people are not yet sufficiently oppressed to be roused; private affairs absorb their intellects; and the only existing hope rests in an agricultural influence over our legislatures. That interest alone is yet able to avert the impending dangers, unless fanatical notions so difficult to be wrung out of human nature, should bind it to the chariot wheels of avarice and ambition. How specious, how apparently honest, are proposals to increase taxes for the payment of public debt! But, what nation ever got out of debt, by increasing taxes? It is simply, a sinking fund. Is the delusion of a sinking fund, yet to be detected? Every increase of taxes generates new hordes of public harpies, just as pauperism is generated, in England, by increasing poor-rates. The most successful effort to pay a national debt which was ever made, was Jefferson's combination of a repeal of taxes with economy. His successful experiment is met by its natural enemy, who exclaims, "continue and increase taxes for patronage and pay them to capitalists, pensioners, exclusive privileges, and sinecures, for, otherwise we can have no currency, we must become dependent on foreign nations, and we should wound the faith of individuals in a waste of public money." Dependence, want of money and public faith! What cabalistical words! How can such superstitions be overturned? To prove them to be superstitions is nothing. Mankind are as hardly persuaded to renounce false Gods as to worship the true one. Our republican system ought to be our political deity. If we adopt the idolatries of Europe, it will cease to shed blessings upon us. Even sovereignty, that unlimited and illimitable European idol, has been thoughtlessly imported by our legislatures, and has caused them to usurp a despotic power over the whole property of the nation. The Roman code of the twelve tables prohibited personal or partial legislation, and the subversion of this salutary prohibition was the era, from which the corruption and ruin of that republic, ought to be dated. We have unendowed religion, and endowed bankers, capitalists, and soldiers. Our soldiers endowments would be considered even in England, that country of sinecures, as an injustice to meritorious industry, more nearly resembling imperial donations to pretorian cohorts, than an endowment of the ministers of the gospel, incessantly labouring for our temporal and eternal welfare.

But when a law is passed, if it is discovered

to be a very bad one, the inveigling words "charter, confidence, and national faith" are paraded by avarice against its repeal. These are addresses to our fanaticism. They did not prevent us from wrenching our liberty from England.—They did not prevent us from unendowing a hierarchy. And shall they subject us to exclusive privileges and gratuitous sinecures?

At this very time, breadstuff-farmers, the manufacturers of the staff of life, who live fifty miles from navigation, cannot possibly make a profit, equal to their taxes, state and federal. In a great extent of country, the crop will not bear the expense of carrying it to market.—Ought not such taxation to be diminished? Ought not such unprofitable industry to be relieved from paying taxes to gratuitous pensioners and exclusive privileges? Ought not our ports to be opened to an influx of commodities, which, like an influx of money, will increase prices, supply wants, and multiply comforts? Is not our soil too poor to bear pecuniary frauds? What remedy exists for our evils but the restoration of the freedom of industry? All other projects for relieving the national distress, or saving our republican system, are, I believe, mere empiricism. But a mass of laws, flowing from the European notion, (we are too fond of notions,) of the illimitable rights of sovereignty and from the seductions of power, have met with an acquiescence founded in confidence and ignorance, neither of which are proofs of public approbation. Can it be wicked or presumptuous for the enlightened and patriotic members of the agricultural interest, to remove this double bandage from the public eye, and to awaken legislative attention to the hideous consequences of measures founded in error, and hostile to liberty? Yes, replies exclusive privileges, politics are our office, and agriculture would travel out of her sphere by meddling with them. Let her keep her eyes shut, and we will lead her.

The end of society, must be kept constantly in view, to obtain the benefits resulting from it. That is, the good of a community, and not a subjection of some men to the avarice of others. Society ought to be the equal nurse of its members; but, instead of this, avarice and ambition have converted it into a mother for themselves, and a step-mother for the rest of mankind.

The value of wealth, created by civilization, has substituted avarice for revenge, as the cause of war. From this motive, independent nations now usually wage war with each other; and from the same motive, domestic combinations are constantly waging internal wars, carried on not by the sword, but by political weapons. If these internal combinations can appropriate to themselves political weapons, as powerful in domestic warfare as the sword is in wars between nations, the rest of the community will be as defenceless as the S. Americans, when invaded by the Spaniards. The agriculturists, from having neglected such weapons, are losing their gold and silver like the unarmed Aborigines of South America. The United Agricultural societies propose to resume them, because, in the hands of the agricultural interest, those weapons may mildly restrain fraud, but can never cripple justice. Is not the mode of re-

sisting exclusive privileges, by bringing public opinion to bear on legislative bodies, preferable to any other, under the peculiar situation of the United States? They are nations sufficiently distinct to resort to the wars of the sword, invariably arising from the effects of distinct nations, to obtain or resist pecuniary advantages. Laws, extracting wealth from some states, and bestowing it upon others, will as certainly produce this species of war, with aggravated calamities, between the states as attempts of the same nature against independent nations. A union exists between European kings, but if this confederation is no security against pecuniary wars, neither will the confederation between the states, occupying a territory nearly or quite as large as all Europe, be a security against such wars, if some states are told by others "you possess slaves, and therefore exclusive privileges shall enslave you." There is no nation so contemptible as to bear such an insult long.

One would think that the U. States, in their very origin, had received a sufficient caution against the policy of establishing pecuniary combinations. Most of them were subjected to mercantile charters and monopolies, producing oppressions sufficient to have strangled them in their infancy. Common sense came in to the aid of common justice, and by abrogating those charters, saved them from a premature death. —What use ought we to make of this admonition in our own history? Ought we to resume the same policy, because it cannot now kill us, as it was near doing in our infancy, and can only subject us to the evils which it is now dispensing to the mature nations of the old world?

It cannot be denied, that a citizen who pays duties, is defrauded by those who do not pay them, even if the duties are employed for the national benefit; because he who shares in the benefit, ought to bear a proportion of the expense necessary to procure it. When this maxim is violated by throwing on a class of citizens the exclusive burden of contributing to the public expenses, and excusing another class from contributing any thing, the injustice to the contributing class is manifest. Add to it a bounty to be paid by the contributing to the non-contributing class, and it is intolerable. —I see no great philosophical distinction between political cannibals, who eat up the means by which men live, and those who eat the men themselves. In the eye of morality, the difference lies between a quick death and protracted misery. The difference in point of wisdom, between those who resign their bodies to the care of cannibals, or their property to the care of exclusive privileges, is much the same.

A foolish hope is a definition of superstition. The hope that banks would make us rich was superstition. The hope, that to make industry pay an exorbitant price for its necessities, will make them cheap after it is dead, is superstition, like the hope that donations to priests would purchase heaven. The hope that sinking funds or heavy taxation will get a nation out of debt is superstition. These hopes create in fact public harpies, and squander public wealth.

The hope that geographical enmities will do good, is food for ambition. And the hope that exclusive privileges will sustain republican institutions is a superstition more absurd than the hope of the Indians, that their hunting grounds will be secured by their treaties, because they are deluded by an obscurity which they cannot see through, whilst we know that these institutions are preserved by such privileges, just as the Indians preserve their lands by treaties. If personal ambition should sustain the hope, that geographical enmities will preserve the union; if avarice shall sustain the hope, that exclusive privileges will enrich the nation; or if patronage and sinecure shall sustain the hope, that heavy taxation will get us out of debt, our republic is but a meteor. The danger can only be averted by expelling such superstitions from the minds of the people, that is, by drawing out the talents of the agricultural interest. If the payment of more money annually, to exclusive privileges and in taxes, than the whole amount of native exports, cannot disclose to agriculturists how they are impoverished, and detect these perfidious hopes, neither would they be convinced by a messenger from the dead.

A triple crisis calls loudly upon the people to decide, whether the despotism of sovereignty, exercised either by monarchy, aristocracy, or democracy, ever has, or ever will become the champion of liberty. A sovereignty over property, usurped by our legislatures, like that over religion, must be exploded, or we shall cease to be free. It is the moral pivot on which the prosperity of the republic must turn, and whether our representatives are sovereigns or servants, comprises the whole scope of its revolution.

RAYNAL SAYS, "if government sets up for a judge of the abuse it will soon set up for a judge of the use of things, and then there is an end of all true notions of liberty and property. If it can require me to employ my own property according to its fancy; if it can inflict punishments on my disobedience, my negligence, or my folly, under a pretence of public utility, I am no longer absolute master of my own; I am only an administrator, who is to be directed by the will of another. He who burns his corn, or throws his money away is such a fool as is seldom met with, and therefore ought not to be restrained by prohibitive laws, which would be bad in themselves, as being an attack upon the Universal and sacred notion of property. In every well regulated constitution the business of the magistrate must be confined to what concerns the public safety, inward tranquillity, the conduct of the army, and the observance of the laws. Whenever authority is stretched beyond this mark, we may venture to affirm that the people are exposed to depredation. If we take a survey of all ages and all nations, that great and fine idea of public utility, will be presented to our imagination, under the symbolical figure of a Hercules, knocking down with his club one part of the people, amidst the shouts and acclamations of the other part, who know not that they are quickly to fall under the same strokes."

This is a perfect picture of the conspiracy between sovereignty and public utility. These ideas combined, compose Raynal's political Hercules. They have begotten banking, protecting duties and pensions, each shouting public utility, and answered by their own acclamations whilst knocking down public prosperity. What a poor fund is left for the expenses and improvement of agriculture after all our exports are absorbed by taxes and these money-suckers! Can public prosperity receive a more severe blow?

It is the bad principle itself, and not its name, which we ought to keep in view. Not the name "king," but the sovereignty attached to the name, constitutes the bad principle. If kings were elective, yet if the principle of sovereignty was attached to the office, despotism must be the consequence; and, therefore, elected kings possessing sovereign power have never secured the liberty of a nation. If our president possessed a sovereign power over property, his being elective would not defeat the innate wickedness of the bad principle. As it would corrupt an elective president, so it would corrupt elective legislatures. An absolute power over property, can usurp all other powers, and legislatures, accordingly, exercise judicial powers under its auspice. Neither one man, nor any body of men, however instituted, can be invested with despotic power over national property, without destroying a free government. —This truth dictated our restrictions of legislative and executive powers though both are elective. Ought these to be superseded by substituting the indefinite rights of sovereignty for an incontrovertible maxim?

Whether you ascribe this long letter to a sense of civility, to the garrulity of age, or to zeal for the principles and propositions of the United Agricultural Societies of Virginia, you will also discern, that it is an apology for not taking a more active part in your measures, inconsistent with the capacity of my time of life, and yet an humble protest against being buried before I am dead.

I am, respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN TAYLOR.

The Hon. John Coffin, of St. John, in the province of New Brunswick, general in the British service, having requested the trustees of the Massachusetts society for promoting agriculture, to accept for the society and for the benefit of the state, the native state of general Coffin, a valuable stud horse, five year-old, imported from England to New Brunswick, about two years since, and selected with great care from the light cart breed of horses, in the county of Suffolk, with a view to improve the breed of useful horses in this country, the trustees in consideration of said donation, have presented Gen. Coffin the society's gold medal and admitted him a member of their society for life. They have also directed a copy of the transactions of the society to be presented to Gen. Coffin, and to be continued to him as they are published during his life.

Cut Worm, and Corn Crop.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Fairfax County, July 2, 1821.

MR. SKINNER,

In your paper of the 15th June last a communication from Mr. Minor, detailing the management of a field for Corn and the depredation committed by the Cut Worm, has called my attention. The preparation of this gentleman for Corn gave him every right to expect a good crop—and I have no doubt he will gather a good one if he persevered in replanting, until the Worm reared to depredate—About 6 years past I prepared a field of 100 acres for Corn during the winter months—and by the 10th of May I had not more than one plant left out of every hundred. I nevertheless continued to cultivate the land and replant it—the Worm pursued me with so much industry, that before the corn could sprout, they would eat out the heart—at the end of the first week in June, I began to despair, for my harvest was nearly ready for the scythe, but feeling that the comfort of my family required of me another effort, I determined, in the language of the gamblers, “to shuffle up the cards, and take a new deal.” I then treated the field as though it had never been planted, laying it into fresh squares and put from 6 to 7 grains into each square—the weather became very warm and moist, the Worm disappeared, and a better, or earlier crop I never made—since this, I have never despaired of making a crop of corn—it is so powerful a plant, that in land deeply broken, and well separated its progress to maturity bears some comparison to the celebrated gourd vine of the Prophet Jonah.

If it be Mr. Minor's wish to avoid the Cut-Worm entirely, he must break his land before November. My experience authorises me to say that all the land broken in September, and to the 15th of October, will be free of Worm.—Where oxen are used to break land, I see no reason why it should not be broken during the summer. Land broken in July and August, will be found to grow corn more promptly and vigorously than that broken in the winter.—I stated to you on a former occasion, that corn might be made by the use of the harrow, only, after the land was well opened and harrowed, before planting. I feel it to be my duty to call in this declaration, for although I have often made my crops in this way, it is an unsafe mode in the hands of inexperience—permit me, therefore, to recommend the use of Freeborn's small corn plough twice, before the introduction of the harrow. Wishing you every success in your valuable paper,

I am, Respectfully,

A VIRGINIAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

CORN;

AND ITS FODDER, HOW BEST TO SAVE IT.

Sir,—Much has been said in your valuable paper about the cutting of corn in the fall. I have, for fifteen years past, cut mine off, and shall continue to do so. When your corn will bear the pulling of blades and taking the tops, you may then cut and put it on its butts, and

as much together as will let it stand firmly in cocks, keeping the lower part a little open to admit air. My system is to have no more cutters than I have hands to follow and cock, as fast as it is cut down. If your corn is late, and you fear it will be injured by frost, by placing it in cocks it is secured against it. There is less danger in Corn shrivelling, managed in this way, than by pulling your blades and taking the tops in the usual mode. My corn is husked in the field and the cocks doubled, and so they stand until fed away during the winter and spring—the quantity of feed for your stock is more than doubled, and the manure more than trebled—the whole is carried out in April and May on my tobacco lands, and ploughed in and the crop much improved by it. My mode of feeding is to draw in as much into the horse-yard as will last the horses for the night—in the morning the cattle go in and are feeding through the day, much of the stalk is eaten—this is continued as long as the fodder lasts, and then we feed our hay on the top. Straw ought not to be given to your stock in the same yard—it will prevent the stalks from being cut fine by your stock.

My corn loft is fourteen feet in width—will hold about 450 barrels, and for some years I had much corn moulded and injured in it—I placed a ventilator through the middle; since then I have never seen an injured ear in the house. There has been strong prejudices in the neighbourhood against my system—they are wearing off, and it is right they should, as I raise five times the manure my neighbours do, who pursue the old way of securing their fodder and feeding. Your fodder will not bear rick-ing or putting in large bulk in a house—it will injure in either way—let it stand in the field and feed it away in the manner mentioned. If your cocks are kept on their butts the fodder will not injure—I speak from experience.—Those who will go on in the old track ought not to let the dew fall on their tops in the field, but take them out as they are cut, and thatch the same day, leaving each end of their house open that the air may circulate freely—by doing so they will cure quite green and sweet—If they lay in the sun and dew they will be much injured by sun-burning, &c.—a wet spell while they are on the ground is ruinous to them and the blades also.

A MARYLAND PLANTER.

[Proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Albemarle.—No. 1.]

On the Culture of **POTATOES**, and the insect in the root of **PEACH TREES**.

(READ, May 7, 1821.)

WOODVILLE, May 1, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

Five or six years ago, I made an experiment in raising the Irish potato, which each time succeeded so much better than my neighbors, that I was induced in 1819, to reserve a square in my garden, of 36 feet, to ascertain the quantity it made; (although an unfavourable season for that crop) having planted more than I wanted for early use.

The potatoes were cut with as few eyes as possible to each piece, and planted in November from 4 to 6 inches apart in nine drills. The

ground was manured with three small tubrill loads of manure, in the broad cast, previous to spading. The drills were then opened from 8 to 10 inches deep, rather wider than the spade, and half filled with stable manure, after which the potatoes were planted on this, and an additional quantity of the same manure put on them until the top of the drills were made even with the surface of the square, pulling the earth over so as to elevate them 4 or 5 inches above the former surface. The whole was then covered 10 or 12 inches deep with wheat straw. No further cultivation is requisite, but should a few large weeds find their way through the straw, it would be advisable to draw them out. The produce of the square was *19 bushels of the finest potatoes, admitted by all who saw them, they had ever seen.

From three years experience, I flatter myself that I can recommend to the Agricultural Society, a method for destroying the insect in peach trees. Remove the earth carefully from the roots of the tree, in the month of October, or after the first cold weather—pour boiling water very slowly, for twelve inches up the body with some vessel that has a spout. Bring back the earth in the spring so as to form a hill around the root of the tree.

Yours, &c.

WALTER COLES.

P. MINOR, Esq.

Sec. Agricultural Soc'y. Albemarle.

* Equal to 627 bushels per acre.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

In the report of the Cattle Show, there is some notice of an Alderney Calf of uncommon weight. The Alderney cattle, imported by Mr. Creighton, seem to be developing a peculiar fitness for this climate. The progeny of the Bull, purchased by George Howard, have been all large calves—and some of them very remarkable for size at an early age. This is particularly the case with the cross of the Alderney, with the Holland and Bakewell cows. Care and good feeding have no doubt contributed to the improvement of these animals, since their importation; but it seems too that our climate is suited to them. In the English books the Alderney cattle are characterised, generally, as rather too delicate to be propagated there with advantage, to any great extent.—But, if they should acquire with us the size and form, (in which qualities they seem in England to be inferior to other breeds,) and preserve the richness of the milk, they will certainly prove a very valuable race. That they evince this disposition to improve, will, I think, appear, from the descendants of Mr. Creighton's importation. Mr. Culley (in his work on Live Stock) remarks, that he had seen some very useful cattle bred from a cross between an Alderney cow and a short horned bull, and the finest cross of the Alderney with us as yet, is that with the Bakewell and Holland cows of the breed possessed by Gen. Ridgely, at Hampton. I have had the following dimensions of the full bred Alderney Bull Calf, exhibited by Gen. Ridgely, at our last Cattle Show.

The calf was got by a young bull soon after landing in this country, by the Alderney cow, sold to Capt. Henry Thompson, [Vide Amer. Farmer, vol. ii. page 101.] For the sake of comparison, I add the corresponding measures of a Bakewell Calf, two years old, taken at the same time. It is fair to add, that great attention was paid to the Alderney—and he was pushed by judicious feeding; and every assistance given to it—while the Bakewell was small, and had received no extra feeding or care. Your obedient servant, J. E. H. Jr.

I hereby certify, that the following are the dimensions and weight of the full bred Alderney Bull Calf, aged five months and six days—bred by General Charles Ridgely, of Hampton:

	Feet.	Inches.
Length, - - - - -	5	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Height, - - - - -	3	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Height behind, - - - - -	4	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Girth before, - - - - -	4	0
Girth around the flank, - - - - -	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

WEIGHT, - - - - - 672 pounds.

JOHN GREEN,
Manager at Hampton.

Baltimore, June 6th, 1821.

Bakewell, though of fine form, was yet the smallest of the breed now at Hampton, and had never been pushed. It is sufficient, however, to prove, what the Alderney are capable of becoming, under judicious management.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Brandywine, 7th mo. 2d, 1821.

THE IMPROVED HORSE RAKE.



For raking hay or stubble ground, this is considered an improvement on the old plan that was lately described in the American Farmer, No. 19, of June 23, by A. Seymour, of Virginia. By the old plan, the rake is dragged over the ground like a harrow; and if made of timber, the size mentioned in his descrip-

tion, "three and a half by four and a half inches thick, and ten feet long," of heavy white oak timber, together with the shafts annexed, would act too much like a harrow, and be too unwieldy for a person of common strength to manage; it would drag much of the soil up, and mix with the hay in loose ground, such as clover on wheat land—it not having formed, in one year, a sufficiency of roots, to stand such a harrowing operation: in fact, much of our light soils would not bear the operation without tearing up many of the roots, and consequently mixing much dirt amongst the hay.

In gleaning the stubble of grain too, which it is often used for; and in the damp of the morning, (which is the best time to save the straggled grain, being less apt to shell out,) this kind of rake drags much dirt with the rakings, and the grain is so affected with it, as to be unfit for use until cleaned in some way better than a barn-fan will do it.

The foregoing objections, as well as others, induced a trial of another mode of applying the rake, which is made as light as is compatible with sufficient strength. They are now constructed quite as simple as they formerly were; the chief difference is, the teeth are much longer, say twenty-four or five inches clear of the head—and they run horizontally under the hay; they are set in the head piece of some light tough wood, about three inches thick, by three and a half or four wide—and set the teeth in the widest way of the piece, so as to let it lay the flat or broadest way on the ground, with a couple of light handles set in to guide it, by being so much elevated, when the teeth lay flat on the ground, as to meet the hand of the operator, whether a man of full size or a boy. They are, generally, managed by the latter—as an active boy of fourteen or fifteen years old, with a plough horse or mule, would do as much business as a man, at full wages could, with one of those old fashioned heavy rakes, and do it much more to the purpose.

I must confess I could not believe, when I first heard them described, that they would answer; but, on making a little light one, which did not cost above three hours work of one man, trying it, I found it to answer the purpose so well, by putting two staples in the upper corner of the head piece, on the front side, which served to hook the horse chains to, for drawing it—by that, I never made any use of shafts.

It is the principle, that is the main object, to have the teeth to pass under the hay, where they meet no resistance; and having four or five small pins set in perpendicular on the top of the head, to prevent the hay or grain from falling over when full.

Being light to handle, the hay can be dropped at any place required, without stopping the horse.

The same process will glean the stubble of grain with despatch and effect, so that hundreds of bushels of grain is saved, that formerly perished on the field, after receiving a rain or two.

It is generally those simple implements of husbandry, that are often overlooked, which

turn to the best account, for despatch of business; and, I may say, the little horse-rake deserves a record, and is worthy of a drawing—but may, perhaps, be farther improved.

Very respectfully, from

C. KIRK.

For the American Farmer.

LIME.

Directions for burning or making it in the field.

JAMAICA PLAIN, 11th July, 1821.

Sir—

I observed in one of the late numbers of the Farmer, a wish expressed, for information of a convenient Lime Kiln, for burning lime for farming purposes; and, having recently received a paper from Nova Scotia, which contained the following article, I think it may be useful for you to publish it—it is very easily tried, and is highly recommended by Mr. Young, the Agriculturist of Nova Scotia. The writer is a respectable clergyman and agriculturist.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN PRINCE.

John S. Skinner, esq.

East River of Picton, Feb. 6th, 1821.

DEAR SIR—In reading the agricultural report from Cumberland, I observe a complaint of the committee, that Lime was more sparingly applied to the soil, owing to an improperly constructed lime kiln, and a hope expressed of getting one on a new and economical construction. I make no use of a kiln in burning limestone, nor do I think a lime kiln any way necessary to a farmer. In Britain lime-stone has, for many years, been burnt in piles, on the surface of the ground. I shall here detail my method of making lime, and if you think it will be a benefit to Cumberland people, or to others, you are at liberty to publish it. I lay down the stones and coals in the field, where the lime is to be applied to the soil, or near it contiguous to water for slaking the shells.—That the fire may have air enough, I make two small trenches eight or nine inches wide and deep, and crossing one another at right angles in the centre of the spot where the pile is to be raised, and extending thence, so as to reach the outside of the pile. These trenches are lined, and covered with thin broad stones, to prevent their being choked with small coal ashes, or fragments of the lime-stone. For a foundation to the pile, I lay a tier of logs from five to seven or eight inches in diameter, close together; (these may be much larger where coals are not used;) with one log of the same dimensions, placed upright in the centre, to facilitate the ascent of the fire, and nearly as high as the pile is expected to be. Round this log a fire is kindled, a bushel or two of coals is laid on, and allowed to burn a while to prevent suffocation, before any stones are thrown on.—Then coals and stones alternately thrown on as fast as men can work, until the pile is finished: in the proportion of one bushel of coals, to two and a half, or perhaps three of stone; taking care to be more liberal of the fuel at the bottom of the pile, and more sparing upwards as heat ascends, and the bottom of the pile is

POETRY.

A SONG,

TO BE SUNG AT THE NEXT CATTLE SHOW—WRITTEN BY

JOHN J. BARKER.

A Farmer's life's the life for me ;
 I own I love it dearly :
 And every season, full of glee,
 I take its labour cheerly—
 To plough or sow,
 To reap or mow,
 Or in the barn to thrash, sir :
 All's one to me,
 I plainly see
 'Twill bring me health and cash, sir.

To customers the Merchant shews
 His best broadcloths and satin
 In hopes to sell a suit of clothes,
 But lo! they beg a pattern—
 Which pin'd on sleeve
 They take their leave—
 Perhaps they'll buy—since low 'tis!
 And if they do,
 The sale he'll rue.
 When paid, sir, with a "notice."

The Priest has plagues, as undesir'd,
 When flatter'd with a call, sir,
 For tho' he preach like one inspir'd,
 He cannot please them all, sir;
 Some, wanting grace,
 Laugh in his face,
 While solemnly he's prising;
 Some sneeze or cough,
 Some shuffle off—
 And some are even dozing.

The Lawyer leads a harass'd life,
 Much like a hunted otter;
 And 'tween his own and other's strife,
 He's always in hot water.
 For foe or friend,
 A cause defend,
 However wrong, must he, sir,
 In reason's spite,
 Maintain 'tis right—
 And dearly earn his fee, sir.

The Doctor's styl'd a gentleman,
 But this I hold but humming;
 For like a tavern waiting man,
 To every call he's "coming."
 Now here, now there,
 Must he repair
 Or starve, sir, by denying;
 Like death himself,
 Unhappy elf,
 He lives by others dying.

The soldier deck'd in golden lace,
 Looks wond'rous fine, I own, sir;
 But still, I envy not his place,
 When batter'd to the bone, sir,
 To knock my head
 Against cold lead,
 I never had a notion;
 If that's the way
 To rank, I say,
 Excuse me the promotion.

The sailor lives but in a jail,
 With all the risk besides, sir,
 Of pillage, founder, and of gale—
 This cannot be denied, sir.
 While I so snug
 Enjoy my mug,
 Or kiss my wife, and so forth—
 When rain and storm
 The nights deform,
 His duty bids him go forth.

in most danger of being badly burnt. The pile is made of a conical form, but not steep, and finally the whole is covered with small coal, one or two inches thick, and with earth four, five, or six inches thick, to keep in the heat. If the covering cracks much, I close the cracks; and if the wind blows much, I close the mouth of the trenches. This last circumstance must be attended to, for a strong wind may make the heat so violent as to run the stones into glass, in which state they will not slack into lime.

This mode of burning limestone has several advantages. None of the lime need be lost, as it is burnt on the farmer's own fields. The carts may be brought to the pile all around, and into the centre. The earth with which the pile is covered will make as good manure as the torrifed earth on which you have been writing lately, or the burnt clay of which we have heard so much. Besides, by this mode, a farmer whose capital, or opportunity of burning limestone is so limited that he cannot be at the expense of building a kiln, and therefore is deterred altogether from using lime, may have his desire gratified at a very trifling expense. I never burnt limestone with wood in this manner, but I am confident it will answer; only it will be somewhat more laborious, both in making and covering the pile, as wood is more bulky than coals. The farmer should not be discouraged though the first attempt should not answer his wishes. Experience will teach him to correct errors. The limestone and fuel should be brought to the spot, and made ready in winter. As its members are numerous, and many of them men of considerable capital, the Cumberland Society may be of vast use in promoting the improvement of agriculture throughout the province. They will assuredly be so if they improve the talents with which a kind Providence has favoured them; if they pursue a rational and scientific mode of cultivating the ground; if they give themselves cautiously, yet boldly to make useful experiments, watching them in their progress, and carefully marking the results; and if they detail these experiments correctly and perspicuously to the public, through the medium of the newspapers.

I take the liberty of recommending to them to commission a complete set of the Farmer's Magazine, published at Edinburg, amounting now to upwards of twenty volumes, and containing a vast fund of agricultural information. It may cost twelve or fifteen pounds, but the money will be well laid out.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

JAMES MACGREGOR.

JOHN YOUNG, Esq.

Secretary, Nova Scotia

Agricultural Society.

It is calculated by agriculturists, that an acre of ground, will support one man the year round. What says GOLDSMITH, who wrote some 70 years ago:—

"A time there was, ere England's woes began,
 "When every rood of ground maintain'd its man."

A farmer's life, then let me live,
 Obtaining while I lead it,
 Enough for self, and some to give
 To such poor souls as need it.
 I'll drain and fence,
 Nor grudge expense
 To give my land good dressing:
 I'll plough and sow,
 Or drill in row,
 And hope from heaven a blessing.

Recipe for Indigestion, Cholera-Morbus, Summer Complaint in Children, or any complaint in the Stomach or Bowels, viz:

Quarter pound rhubarb, half ounce carraway seed, half ounce orange peel; infuse them in one quart best French brandy, and let them stand for twelve hours before using. For a grown person, two-thirds of a wine glass full once a day, or every six hours (if the case requires it)—and for a child, a tea spoon full taken at discretion. This mixture checks the most obstinate dysentery; keeps the bowels gently open; promotes digestion, and is one of the most effectual tonicks in all the materia medica.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1821.

"Thinks I to myself," I have omitted to comply with the terms of subscription to the American Farmer—yet I take it from the post-office, and read it with more or less advantage—Now! shall I enclose the amount to the Editor by mail, at his own risk, without further delay?—or, shall I trouble him, much occupied as he is in collecting and distributing agricultural information, to write me a dunning letter?—What says PROPRIETY? What says CONSCIENCE?

We have now the pleasure to gratify the often expressed wishes of many of our subscribers, by inserting the concluding remarks of Mr. Quincy, on the interesting subject of *soiling*.

To the communication of C. Kirk, on the advantages of the improved Hay Rake, we have added an engraving of that implement, as represented by Reuben Haines, in a communication to the Philadelphia Agricultural Society.

In our next, if we can command as much time and room as will admit of it, we propose to take some notice of the frauds, said to have been committed by certain planters, in the packing of tobacco for this market—and, although we would cordially unite in the reprobation and punishment of all fraudulent practices, we are of opinion that the Mercantile Court of Enquiry might have found, if they had directed their investigation a little nearer home, some other schemes, and modes, and objects of *adulteration*, quite as worthy of denunciation, as the fraudulent mixture of good and bad tobacco.—More anon!!

Several samples of prodigious growths of different sorts have been left at our office this season. Amongst others, stalks of clover upwards of five feet high from the farm of M. Kimmel, Esq. in Patapsco neck—this clover grew over a hole in which an apple had been planted, and perished—it serves to show the vast importance of deep and fine tilth.

Little, or no grain of any kind has, as we are told, come to market the past week. No sales of tobacco that indicate any change of price.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN S. SKINNER.